Docket #8333 Date Filed: 11/18/2014

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION

| In Re | Chapter 9 |
|----------------------------|---|
| City of Detroit, | Case No.: 13-53846 Hon. Steven W. Rhodes |
| Debtor, | |
| | |
| William Ochadleus, et. al. | |
| Appellants | |

MOTION FOR LIMITED STAY PENDING APPEAL

The Ochadleus Appellants file this motion ("Motion"), pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 8005, 9013 and 9014 for a limited stay pending appeal of this Court's Order (Doc. 8272) Confirming the City's Eighth Plan of Adjustment (Doc. 8045) entered November 12, 2014. A statement of concurrence was sought of the opposing counsel to this Motion in an email on November 18, 2014, to the attorney of record Ms. Heather Lenox and the City responded that they do not concur to this Motion.

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| City of Detroit, | Case No.: Case No. 13-53846 Hon. Steven W. Rhodes |
| Debtor, | Tron. Steven W. Rilodes |
| William Ochadleus, et. al. | |
| Appellants | |

ORDER

For the reasons stated in the Motion for Limited Stay Pending Appeal filed this date, the Court directs the following:

1. The Motion for Limited Stay Pending Appeal is GRANTED.

Form B20A (Official Form 20A 12/1/10

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT Eastern District of Michigan

In re: City of Detroit

objection and may enter an order granting that relief.

| | | Chapter: 9 |
|--|--|---|
| [Set forth here all names including r trade names used by debtor within | | Case No.: 13-53846 |
| <u>Debtor(s</u> | L | Judge: <u>Steven W. Rhodes</u> |
| Address <u>2 Woodward Ave. Suite</u> Detroit, Michigan 48226 | 1126 | |
| Last four digits of Social Security or Employer's Tax Identification (EIN) No | (s) (if any): | |
| NOTICE OF: Motion for Limited Detroit's Debts (Doc. 8045) | Stay Pending of Order (Do | c. 8272) Confirming Eighth Plan of Adjustment of the City of |
| | (Motion | or <u>Objection</u>) |
| changes proposed for retiree pe | | o <u>Provide Limited Stay of Confirmation Order (Stay all Plan</u> |
| | | rs carefully and discuss them with your attorney, ve an attorney, you may wish to consult one.) |
| | | r objection], or if you want the court to 21 days, you or your attorney must: |
| 1. File with the court a written response | nse or an answer, explaining | your position at: 1 |
| United States Banl (Mail to correct Co Detroit, Flint or Ba | urt Address | |
| the court will rec | | g, you must mail it early enough so e stated above. All attorneys are |
| | il a copy to: y's name, address and teleph ses of others to be served} | one number} |
| 2. If a response or answer is timely served with a notice of the date, | | vill schedule a hearing on the motion and you will be ng. |

If you or your attorney do not take these steps, the court may decide that you do not oppose the relief sought in the motion or

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UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN SOUTHERN DIVISION

| In re | Chapter 9 |
|--|--|
| City of Detroit, Debtor, | Case No.: Case No. 13-53846 Hon. Steven W. Rhodes |
| William Ochadleus, <i>et. al.</i> Appellants | |

BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LIMITED STAY PENDING APPEAL

Jurisdiction

1. The Appellants bring this motion pursuant to Rule 8005, 9013 and 9014 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). This Court has jurisdiction over this motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. A determination of whether to grant a limited stay pending appeal is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157. Venue for this matter is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

Relief Requested

2. The Appellants seek entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit 1, staying the confirmation of the City's Plan Order pending appeal.

Basis for Relief Requested

- 3. Courts consider the same elements applicable to the grant of a preliminary injunction when determining whether a stay pending appeal should be granted under Bankruptcy Rule 8005, "(1) whether the movant has shown a strong or substantial likelihood of success on the merits; (2) whether the movant has demonstrated irreparable injury; (3) whether the issuance of [a stay] would cause substantial harm to others; and (4) whether the public interest is served by the issuance of [a stay]." *In re Holstine*, 458 B.R. 392, 394 (E.D. Mich. 2011) *citing In re Eagle-Picher Indus.*, 963 F.2d 855, 858-69 (6th Cir. 1992).
- 4. The Sixth Circuit has adopted a sliding scale with respect to the first two factors. "The probability of success that must be demonstrated is inversely proportional to the amount of irreparable injury [movants] will suffer absent the stay. Simply stated, more of one excuses less of the other." *Michigan Coalition of Radioactive Material Users, Inc. v. Griepentrog*, 945 F.2d 150, 153 (6th Cir.1991); *see also Service Employees Intern. Union Local 1 v. Husted*, 698 F.3d 341, 343 (6th Cir. 2012) (*quoting Griepentrog*); *In re Smith*, 501 B.R. 332, 335-36 (Bankr. E.D. Mich. 2013) (same). Consistent with this sliding scale approach, the Sixth Circuit has approved a test that provides that a stay is appropriate "where [the movant] fails to show a strong or substantial probability of ultimate success on the merits of his claim, but where he at least shows serious questions going to the merits and irreparable harm which decidedly outweighs any potential harm to the [non-moving party] if [a stay] is issued." *In re DeLorean Motor Co.*, 755 F.2d 1223, 1229 (6th

Cir. 1985) (citations omitted); *see also Jones v. Caruso*, 569 F.3d 258, 277 (6th Cir. 2009) (affirming that an injunction may issue upon a showing of "serious questions going to the merits").

Likelihood of Success on the Merits.

- 5. The risk of statutory and/or equitable mootness with respect to several issues subject to appeal strongly supports a stay. *See*, *e.g.*, *In re Adelphia Commc'n Corp.*, 361 B.R. 337, 347-48 (S.D.N.Y. 2007) ("[W]here the denial of a stay pending appeal risks mooting *any* appeal of *significant* claims of error, the irreparable harm requirement is satisfied") (emphasis in original); *see also Weingarten Nostat*, *Inc. v. Service Merchandise Co.*, *Inc.*, 396 F.3d 737, 741 (6th Cr. 2005) (noting that the district court below determined that potential mootness of appeal likely established irreparable harm even though the district court denied the stay on other grounds).
- 6. To be clear, Appellants do not concede that its appeal will be moot. Indeed, the Appellants believe that some relief may be possible notwithstanding the Confirmation Order, and also believe that equitable mootness would be inapplicable here. In particular, the Appellants believe that if the reductions to retiree pensions is overturned on appeal, the City would not be required to spend any additional monies (the City under terms of the Plan is not required to spend any monies from its general fund to its retirement system until 2023 and current benefits are paid from the retirement trusts). And the City cannot show with any certainty the retirement systems future funding needs (post 2023).
- 7. The Court has stated that it believed that the chances of an appeal succeeding was at 25%.

 Currently, the favorite team to win the 2015 Super-bowl (Denver Broncos) have 4 to 1

 (20%) odds to win the Superbowl. Therefore, there is a reasonable likelihood of prevailing

on the merits. The moving party "need not satisfy all elements, but rather the Court is to balance the factors." *In re Seidel*, 443 B.R. 411, 413 (Bankr. S.D. Ohio 2011) ("All four factors are not prerequisites but must be balanced"). In essence, a party seeking a stay must ordinarily demonstrate to a reviewing court that there is a likelihood of reversal.

Debtors Will Not Be Substantially Harmed By the Relief Sought

- 8. In contrast to the substantial irreparable harm that the City of Detroit retirees will suffer absent a stay, the Debtors will suffer no harm.
- 9. Retirees received their annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) on July 1, 2014. Since the Plan was approved the City has the right to "recoup" 55% of retiree's COLA's retroactively to July 1, 2014 (the farther out the effective date is extended the more "recoupment" retirees will suffer and the greater the harm). This will cause substantial harm to many retirees that rely on already meager pensions for sustenance.

The Appeal Presents Substantial Issues of Significant Public Interest

- 10. All courts who have weighed in to date recognize that the issues here are of great public significance and are substantial. The bankruptcy court also recognized the significant public interest at play in this unprecedented case.
- 11. Thus, the dispute is not over whether the issues presented affect the public interest but rather whether the Debtors should be allowed to avoid any meaningful appellate review of the unprecedented posture of the State and the City in this matter.

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Respectfully Submitted: November 18, 2014

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 18, 2014, I electronically filed a *Motion for Limited*Stay Pending Appeal and Proposed Order Granting Stay Pending Appeal on the City of Detroit with the Clerk of the Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division using the ECF System, which will send notification of such filing to all attorneys and parties of record registered electronically, including the following listed parties.

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